

# Legislative Digest

Week of November 15, 1999

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J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

## Monday, November 15

*House Meets at 2:00 p.m. for Pro Forma Session*

## Tuesday, November 16

*House Meets at 11:00 a.m. for Morning Hour and 12:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 12:00 p.m.)*

H.Res. 375	Providing Expedited Procedures for the Remainder of the 1st Session of the 106th Congress
H.Res. 374	Providing for Consideration of Motions to Suspend the Rules

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⇒H.R. 3194	FY2000 District of Columbia Appropriations (Conference Report)	

⇒To be published in a future issue of the *Legislative Digest*

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# State Flexibility Clarification Act

## H.R. 3257

Committee on Rules

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Reynolds *et al.* on November 8, 1999

### Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 3257 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### Summary:

H.R. 3257 amends the 1974 Congressional Budget Act (*P.L. 93-344*) to (1) clarify that legislation proposing a new restriction on entitlement programs or a reduction in spending for these programs is a mandate (defined as a provision within legislation that imposes enforceable duties upon state or local governments or the private sector) unless there is new and sufficient flexibility to implement the restriction or funding reduction; (2) require committees to include in their reports on legislation to reduce federal funding for state entitlement programs an explanation of how the committee intends states to implement the reduction in funding and what flexibility, if any, is provided; and (3) require the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to mention in its mandates statements how states may implement the reductions under existing law. If such legislation does provide additional flexibility, then CBO must include in its report an estimate of whether the savings from such flexibility will offset the reduction in federal spending.

In 1996, CBO held that a parliamentary point of order would not exist for a proposed cap on Medicaid contributions to states and any other mandatory federal aid programs with the exception of food stamps. The effect of this interpretation was to exempt more than two-thirds of all grants-in-aid—the mandatory entitlement programs—from coverage under the 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (*P.L. 104-4*), which requires the federal government to publish full information on the costs and effects of unfunded mandates and erects parliamentary obstacles to congressional passage of bills that impose unfunded requirements on state and local governments.

### Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The bill was not reported by a House committee.



*Scott Galupo, 226-2305*

# **Releasing Reversionary Interests in Certain Property in Washington County, Utah**

## **H.R. 2862**

Committee on Resources  
H.Rept. 106-\_\_\_\_  
Introduced by Mr. Hansen on September 14, 1999

### **Floor Situation:**

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 2862 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### **Summary:**

H.R. 2862 eliminates U.S. reversionary interests in property located in Washington County, Utah, so that the land may be transferred to the state of Utah. The land will be used for habitat conservation and a desert tortoise wildlife habitat area.

### **Costs/Committee Action:**

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The bill was not considered by a House committee.



*Heather Valentine, 226-7860*

# Clarifying Liability for a Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Land Acquisition

## H.R. 2863

Committee on Resources  
H.Rept. 106-\_\_\_\_  
Introduced by Mr. Hansen on September 14, 1999

### Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 2863 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### Summary:

H.R. 2863 clarifies that the city of St. George, Utah, will remain liable for 15 acres of land located within the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in Washington County, which is about to be transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a desert tortoise conservation project. The land was once used as a landfill and the BLM does not wish to assume liability for the area.

### Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The bill was not considered by a House committee.



*Heather Valentine, 226-7860*

# Adjusting the Boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to Include Cat Island, Mississippi

## H.R. 2541

Committee on Resources  
H.Rept. 106- 447  
Introduced by Mr. Taylor (MS) on July 15, 1999

### Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 2541 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### Summary:

H.R. 2541 modifies the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include approximately 2,000 acres of land and water known as Cat Island in Mississippi. In addition, the bill authorizes the Interior Secretary to acquire the property from willing sellers and authorizes the appropriation of necessary amounts for this acquisition.

The Gulf Islands National Seashore consists of barrier islands along the coasts of Mississippi and Florida and is administered by the National Park Service. Currently, the seashore is comprised of 19,000 acres of land and 115,000 acres of marine area. Nearly 90 percent of the 2,415-acre Cat Island is owned by one family. This owner is currently interested in selling the land. The area is one of the most popular surfing destinations on the Gulf coast and contains many wildlife and natural resources.

### Costs/Committee Action:

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 2541 will cost as much as \$30 million for purchasing the island, assuming appropriations of the necessary amounts. In addition, CBO estimates that it will cost between \$1 million and \$2 million over the next five years to build visitor facilities. Operating costs for the new property will amount to approximately \$500,000 in FY 2000 and about \$200,000 annually thereafter. The bill does not affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote on October 27, 1999.



*Heather Valentine, 226-7860*

# **Trona Market Competition Act**

## **H.R. 3063**

Committee on Resources  
H.Rept. 106-\_\_\_\_  
Introduced by Mrs. Cubin on October 13, 1999

### **Floor Situation:**

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 3063 under the suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### **Summary:**

H.R. 3063 amends the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act to allow the Interior Secretary to double the number of federal leases that may be held by individual sodium producers in a single state from 15,360 acres to 30,720 acres.

### **Background:**

The primary product of trona mining is soda ash (sodium carbonate), a basic industrial chemical that is used for making glass and a variety of consumer products, including baking soda, detergents, and pharmaceuticals. Wyoming is the largest exporter of trona in the world, employing about 3,000 people in the state.

The present acreage limitation for federal sodium (trona) leases has been in place for more than five decades, since 1948, and is the oldest such limitation under the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act. Over time, Congress and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have revised acreage limits for other minerals to meet the needs of the respective industries. Currently, the sodium lease acreage limitation of 15,360 acres per state is approximately one-third of the per state federal lease acreage cap for coal (46,080 acres) and potassium (51,200 acres) and one-sixteenth that of oil and gas (246,080 acres).

In his testimony before the Resources Committee, BLM official Bob Anderson stated that his agency supports the bill because (1) other leasable minerals have higher acreage limits; (2) mergers among soda ash firms have forced firms to work around acreage limits rather than focus on maximum extraction of the minerals; and (3) new trona mining techniques which promote maximum recovery of the resource should be matched with larger mine size. Supporters argue that the bill is necessary for U.S. producers to remain competitive in the face of international competition and trade barriers around the world as well as allow the industry to expand and operate efficiently.

**Costs/Committee Action:**

CBO estimates that enactment will not affect federal spending. The bill does not affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The Resources Committee reported the measure by voice vote on October 27, 1999.



*Kevin Smith, 226-7862*



# Prohibiting Drilling in Mosquito Creek Lake

## H.R. 2818

Committee on Resources  
H.Rept. 106-\_\_\_\_  
Introduced by Mr. Traficant on September 8, 1999

### Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 2818 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### Summary:

H.R. 2818 prohibits oil and gas drilling in the Mosquito Creek Lake in Cortland, Ohio, and allows the U.S. Attorney General to enforce the prohibition through U.S. district courts.

Mosquito Creek Lake is the sole provider of drinking water for the city of Warren, Ohio. It also provides water for the city of Cortland and other communities. The Army Corps of Engineers built the lake in 1944 and the federal government owns its resources. Under current law, the federal government must provide access to the resources located beneath federal land unless it is not feasible or environmentally sound. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently finalizing plans to issue leases to private companies to conduct slant drilling. Local residents have expressed concern over the environmental impacts that may result from such mining and drilling.

### Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote on October 27, 1999.



*Heather Valentine, 226-7860*

# Condemning Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian's Assassination

H.Con.Res. 222

Committee on International Relations  
No Report Filed  
Introduced by Mr. Rogan on November 9, 1999

## Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Con.Res. 222 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

## Summary:

H.Con.Res. 222 expresses the sense of Congress (1) condemning the slaying of the prime minister of Armenia, Vazgen Sargsian, the chairman of the Armenian parliament, Karen Demirchian, the deputy chairman of the Armenian parliament, Yuri Bakhshian, the Minister of Operative Issues, Leonard Petrossian, and other members of the Armenian government struck down in this violent attack; (2) that the perpetrators of these vile acts be swiftly brought to justice so that Armenia may demonstrate its opposition to acts of terror; (3) commends the efforts of the late prime minister and the Armenian government for their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and for supporting free market movements internationally; and (4) that the U.S. should cherish its strong friendship with Armenia.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenians voted for independence and elected a president in an effort to move to democracy. Armenians elected Vazgen Sargsian as prime minister in parliamentary elections in May 1999. On October 27, 1999, several gunmen entered Armenia's legislature and opened fire. Prime Minister Sargsian, three other government officials, and others were fatally wounded by the gunmen.

## Committee Action:

The International Relations Committee reported the resolution by voice vote on November 9, 1999.



*Mary Rose Baker, 226-6871*

# Sense of Congress Regarding U.S. Policy Toward the Slovak Republic

## H.Con.Res. 165

Committee on International Relations  
No Report Filed  
Introduced by Mr. Mica *et al.* on July 29, 1999

### Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Con.Res. 165 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### Summary:

H.Con.Res. 165 expresses the sense of Congress commending the government of the Slovak Republic for (1) addressing the issue of proper treatment of its citizens, regardless of ethnic background, particularly those of ethnic Hungarian background; (2) improving the economic situation in the country; (3) accelerating the privatization of state-owned enterprises in a fair and open process; and (4) supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the recent conflict in Kosovo.

The resolution also urges the government of the Slovak Republic to continue to implement programs that may qualify the nation for entrance into the European Union and NATO and commends the country for its continued support of the NATO effort to ensure stability and democratization across Europe. Finally, the resolution encourages the United States to support efforts to eventually integrate the Slovak Republic into pan-European and trans-Atlantic institutions.

The Slovak Republic finally emerged after years of struggle for independence. From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, present-day Slovakia was under Hungarian rule; it was not until 1918 that the Czechs and Slovaks banded together to escape the Habsburg empire and form the Czechoslovak Republic. Czechoslovakia was the only eastern-central European country to remain a parliamentary democracy from 1918 to 1938. However, the country's large German population made them an attractive target for Nazi Germany, which occupied the western portion of the country, known as the Sudetenland, in 1938 pursuant to the infamous Munich agreement.

After the war, Czechoslovakia reunited to hold elections in 1946. The Communist party won in Czechoslovakia, beginning four decades of strict communist rule. Many dissident movements developed in the 1960s, culminating in open dissent in the "Prague Spring" in 1968, which led the Soviets to brutally suppress the popular uprising through armed occupation. The pro-democracy forces, however, went underground but resurfaced after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and eventually brought about the downfall of the Communist government. A transition government was formed in 1989 when dissident playwright Vaclav Havel was elected president, and the first free elections were held in 1990. Vladimir Meciar's

Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) emerged as a dominant party in Slovakia, while Vaclav Klaus's Civic Democratic Party won elections in the Czech portion of the country. Meciar and Klaus negotiated an agreement to divide Czechoslovakia on January 1, 1993, and Meciar's party ruled Slovakia for most of its first five years as an independent state.

Previous to the elections in October 1998, Meciar's government was accused of halting the region's move to democracy and imposing unfair election laws. More than 80 percent of voters participated in the election, giving the Dzurinda government a clear mandate for change to a reformist coalition led by economist Mikulas Dzurinda and made up of four distinctive parties. Since the election, the new government has exposed widespread corruption and economic mismanagement by the previous government, which had seriously undermined efforts to maintain economic growth and integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

The Slovakian government has applied for membership into the European Union with an Association Agreement signed in 1993. The country also desires to become a member of NATO and is currently seeking membership.

### **Committee Action:**

The International Relations Committee reported the resolution by voice vote on November 9, 1999.



*Heather Fesnak, 226-2302*  
*Heather Valentine, 226-7860*

# Expressing Congress's Concern Over the Conflict in Chechnya, Russia

H.Con.Res. 206

Committee on International Relations

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Smith (NJ) *et al.* on October 25, 1999

## Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Con.Res. 206 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

## Summary:

H.Con.Res. 206 expresses Congress's grave concern over the armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation, which has inflicted hundreds of civilian casualties and displaced thousands of people. In addition, the resolution (1) urges the Russian Federation government to cease using force against Chechnya's civilians, in accordance with commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); (2) urges the Russian Federation to negotiate with North Caucasus representatives, including President Maskhadov and his government, to assist with the conflict prevention and crisis management capabilities of the OSCE, which helped end the 1994-1996 Russo-Chechen War; (3) urges Chechnya's government to use every appropriate means to deny extremist forces located in its territory a base of operations for mounting armed incursions that threaten the peace and stability in the North Caucasus region; (4) cautions that forcible resettlement of internally displaced persons would evoke outrage from the international community; (5) urges the Russian Federation to seek and accept international humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the internally displaced persons from Chechnya, so as to reduce the risk of civilian casualties; and (6) calls on the U.S. government to express to all parties the necessity of resolving the conflict peacefully, with full respect to the human rights of all Russian Federation citizens, and to support providing appropriate international humanitarian assistance.

Separatism in the Chechnya region led to the Russo-Chechen War of 1994-1996, during which the Russian Federation military used massive force against civilians in Chechnya, causing human casualties, gross human rights violations, large-scale displacement of individuals, and destruction of property. The war ended when peace talks between the Russians and Chechens, guided by the OSCE, began on May 25, 1995. The two sides signed a military accord calling for a cease-fire, the complete disarmament of Chechen fighters, and withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya; it was decided that Chechnya's status would be determined by both sides in 2001.

Chechnya elected a new president and began an era of *de facto* independence. The region, however, never stabilized and is plagued by unlawfulness, trade disruptions, and a fleeing population. On August 7, 1999, approximately 1,200 Chechen guerrillas attacked Dagestan with the goal of ousting Russian authority and proclaiming wider Islamic rule. A month later, four apartment buildings in Russia were bombed,

killing 300. Chechen terrorists were suspected as the culprits. Although Chechnya's government denied any involvement in these two events, Russia launched large-scale military operations against Chechnya. This fighting in Chechnya has already resulted in hundreds of casualties and displaced nearly 200,000 Chechens.

**Committee Action:**

The International Affairs committee reported the resolution by voice vote on November 9, 1999.



*Mary Rose Baker, 226-6871*

# Expressing Congress's Support for the Recent Elections in the Republic of India

H.Con.Res. 211

Committee on International Relations

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Ackerman *et al.* on October 27, 1999

## Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Con.Res. 211 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

## Summary:

H.Con.Res. 211 congratulates the people of the Republic of India for successful national elections and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his re-election. The resolution also calls on President Clinton to travel to India as part of any South Asia trip and urges him to broaden the special relationship between the U.S. and India into a strategic partnership. Since gaining independence from British colonization in 1947, India has been a democratic republic with a multi-party system and is currently the world's largest democracy. On April 17, 1999, following a loss of confidence vote of 270-269, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition, headed by Prime Minister Vajpayee, resigned. The Congress Party, the BJP's opposing political party, was unable to form a new government and called for an election. India completed this round of elections in October with a 60 percent voter turnout. The voters again chose Prime Minister Vajpayee to lead India. Resolution supporters note that as a longstanding parliamentary democracy, India continues to be an example for all of Asia.

## Committee Action:

The International Relations Committee reported the resolution by voice vote on November 9, 1999.



*Mary Rose Baker, 226-6871*

# Sense of the House Regarding Laos

## H.Res. 169

Committee on International Relations

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Vento and Mr. Smith (NJ) on May 13, 1999

### Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Res. 169 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### Summary:

H.Res. 169 expresses the sense of the House that the government of Laos should (1) respect international norms of human rights and democratic freedoms for the Laotian people, and fully honor its commitments to those norms and freedoms as embodied in its constitution and international agreements as well as the 1962 Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos and the 1973 Vientiane Agreement on Laos; (2) issue a public statement specifically reaffirming its commitment to protecting religious freedom and other basic human rights; (3) institute a process of democracy, human rights, and openly contested free and fair elections in Laos, and ensure specifically that the national assembly elections—currently scheduled for 2002—are openly contested; and (4) allow access for international human rights monitors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International, to Laotian prisons, and to all regions of the country to investigate allegations of human rights abuses, including those against the Hmong people, when requested.

In 1975, the Pathet Lao party replaced the government in Laos and the Lao Royal Family and established a “people’s democratic republic,” in violation of the 1962 Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos and the 1973 Vientiane Agreement. Since the 1975 overthrow, Laos has been under the sole control of the Lao People’s Democratic Party. Laos has become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which calls for the creation of open societies in each of its member states by 2020. However, the State Department’s “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998” notes that the Laotian government has only slowly eased restrictions on basic freedoms and begun codifying rights stipulated in the Lao Constitution, and continues to significantly restrict the freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion. According to Amnesty International, serious problems persist in the human rights record of the Laotian government, including the continued detention and inhumane treatment of political prisoners.

### Committee Action:

The International Relations Committee reported the resolution by voice vote on November 9, 1999.

*Heather Valentine, 226-7860*



# Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Increased Support and Funding to Combat Diabetes

H.Res. 325

Committee on Commerce

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. LaFalce *et al.* on October 7, 1999

## Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Res. 325 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

## Summary:

H.Res. 325 expresses the sense of Congress that the federal government has a responsibility to (1) continue to increase research funding, as recommended by the Diabetes Research Working Group, to help discover the causes, treatments, and a cure for diabetes; (2) raise awareness about the importance of the early detection and proper treatment of diabetes; and (3) continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for diagnosing and treating diabetes. The resolution also expresses that all Americans should take an active role in fighting diabetes, including watching for symptoms of the disease. Finally, the resolution states that national and community organizations and health care providers should promote awareness of diabetes and its complications and encourage early detection through regular screenings, education, and by providing information, support, and access to services.

Diabetes is a debilitating, lifelong condition that affects people of every age, race, income level, and nationality. An estimated 16 million Americans suffer from the disease, and millions more are at risk. The number of Americans with diabetes has increased nearly 700 percent in the past 40 years, leading the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to call it the “epidemic of our time.” Approximately 800,000 people will be diagnosed with diabetes in 1999, and the disease will contribute to an estimated 198,000 deaths this year (making it the sixth leading cause of death). Diabetes costs the nation an estimated \$105 billion annually in health care costs. More than one out of every 10 health-care dollars in the United States and about one out of every four Medicare dollars is spent on caring for diabetics, totaling more than \$40 billion.

Diabetes frequently goes undiagnosed: an estimated 5.4 million Americans have the disease but do not know it. It is the leading cause of kidney failure, blindness in adults, and amputations. Moreover, the disease is a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke, and birth defects and shortens average life expectancy by up to 15 years. Approximately 800,000 Americans have Type-One diabetes, formerly known as juvenile diabetes, and 15.2 million have Type-Two diabetes, formerly known as adult onset diabetes. Finally, 18.4 percent of Americans aged 65 years or older have diabetes and 8.2 percent of Americans aged 20 years or older have the disease.

**Committee Action:**

This resolution was not reported by a House committee.



*Brendan Shields, 226-0378*

# Recognizing and Honoring Walter Payton

H.Res. 370

Committee on Government Reform

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Pickering *et al.* on November 9, 1999

## Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Res. 370 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

## Summary:

H.Res. 370 recognizes and honors Walter Payton as one of the great professional football players of all time and for his many contributions to Mississippi and the country as a role model and father. The resolution extends its deepest condolences to his wife and family. Born on July 25, 1954, in Columbia, Mississippi, Payton died on November 1 of cancer that was discovered during treatment for a rare liver disease.

“Sweetness,” as Payton was nicknamed, was widely regarded as one of the greatest football players of all time. He played his entire 13-year NFL career with the Chicago Bears and is considered a legend in the Windy City. Payton was, contrary to his nickname, a heroically tough runner. He carried the football 3,838 times for 16,726 yards, NFL records both, and missed only one of his team’s 190 games in his entire career. In a day when 1,000-yard seasons are commonplace, Payton and Barry Sanders remain the only running backs to do it 10 times. He excelled in every aspect of the game: running, receiving, and blocking. Others may argue who was the most powerful, the most graceful, or the fastest runner. However, no one will argue that Payton was anything other than simply great, consistently great, and he did it every game.

In addition to holding the all time NFL rushing record, Payton remains the Bears all time leading pass receiver with 492 catches. He led the Bears to a 15-1 record and a 46-10 Super Bowl victory over the New England Patriots in 1985. Payton retired after the 1987 season and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1993, his first year of eligibility. The Walter Payton Foundation provides funding and support for children’s educational programs, as well as programs assisting abused or neglected children. Former Bears coach Mike Ditka said “He was the best football player I have ever seen and one of the best people I ever met.”

## Committee Action:

H.Res. 370 was not considered by a House committee.



*Kevin Smith, 226-7862*

# Honoring Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna, Jr.

## H.Res. 363

Committee on Government Reform

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Matsui *et al.* on November 8, 1999

### Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Res. 363 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, November 16, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

### Summary:

H.Res. 363 recognizes and honors Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna Jr. (1) as a successful and inspiring leader; (2) for his lifetime contributions to Sacramento, the state of California, and the nation; and (3) for his activism, public service, education, and dedication to the advancement of others. The resolution expresses the House's condolences to Serna's wife, son, daughter, and the citizens of Sacramento on his death.

Joe Serna Jr. was born in Stockton, California, to an immigrant farm worker on September 3, 1939. After graduating from high school, Serna worked at a trailer manufacturing facility, where he lost his job due to his endorsing a strike. He then began junior college and graduated in 1966 from California State University, Sacramento before joining the Peace Corps in Guatemala. Serna spent more than a decade working with migrant workers, organizing food workers, and coordinating election campaigns, under the guidance of labor leader Cesar Chavez. In 1981, Serna was elected to the Sacramento City Council where he served until he was elected mayor on November 3, 1992. He is credited with revitalizing the downtown Sacramento area, improving the public school system, creating jobs, instituting a community policing system, and improving the quality of life for city residents.

### Committee Action:

The resolution was not considered by a House committee.



*Mary Rose Baker, 226-6871*